

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



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Chairman Davis Introduces Two Bills to
Streamline and Improve Government Acquisition
Legislation Would Re-organize GSA,
Make Government-Wide Procurement Reforms

** * Government Reform to Mark-up GSA Bill And Three Others Tomorrow * **

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- House Government Reform Committee Chairman Tom Davis (R-VA) today introduced two pieces of legislation to streamline and improve federal acquisition operations.

The two bills are H.R. 2066, the “General Services Administration Modernization Act,” and H.R. 2067, the “Acquisition System Improvement Act,” or ASIA. Both are co-sponsored by Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-CA), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

“These two pieces of legislation continue our efforts to modernize the federal acquisition system and to provide the government with greater access to the commercial marketplace,” Davis said. “The Federal marketplace should reflect the best of the commercial marketplace, both in the products and services we buy and the way we buy them.”

The re-introduction of ASIA (H.R. 2067) continues congressional efforts to modernize the federal government’s acquisition system and provide the federal government greater access to the commercial marketplace. Its major provisions include:

- **Acquisition Professional Exchange Program:** Creating an acquisition professional exchange program to permit the exchange of high-performing acquisition professionals between the federal government and participating private-sector concerns.

- **Share-in-Savings Initiatives:** Extending the use of innovative share-in-savings contracts for information technology as authorized under the E-Government Act of 2002. Share-in-savings contracts represent an innovative approach to encourage industry to share creative technology and management solutions so that agencies can lower costs and improve service delivery without large up-front investments.
- **Agency Acquisition Protests:** Providing statutory authority for the agency-level acquisition protest process. It would provide that an interested party filing a protest on the same matter with the Comptroller General within 5 days of the issuance of the agency protest decision would qualify for a stay of performance in connection with such protest. This would put in statute the current regulatory agency protest process and add a stay of performance that has been missing from the agency process.
- **Commercially Available Online Services for Federal Procurement of Commercial Items:** Providing an amendment to the government-wide acquisition regulations to require the maximum use of innovative commercially available online procurement services particularly reverse auctions.

ASIA also extends a deadline for a report of the Statutory and Regulatory Advisory Panel, provides that the government's Cost Accounting Standards (CAS) be mandatory for all negotiated contracts exceeding \$550,000 (keeping this threshold in line with the Truth in Negotiations Act), enables the GSA Administrator to allow state and local governments to use GSA's Federal Supply Schedules, provides uniform standards for contract financing, and consolidates the various agency boards of contract appeals.

H.R. 2066, the GSA bill, would create a new Federal Acquisition Service, which would combine the existing Federal Supply Service (purchase of goods and services for the federal government) and Federal Technology Service (purchase of IT products for the federal government). This would allow, for the first time, GSA to offer customer agencies goods, services, and information technology together in a single acquisition.

The legislation would also authorize the Administrator to appoint up to five "Regional Executives" for the Federal Acquisition Service, as well as require nationwide to facilitate closer oversight and more management control over acquisition-related activities. Recently, the existing GSA regions were the subject of Inspector General reports that revealed evidence of serious acquisition mismanagement.

Finally, the legislation would establish retention bonuses and reemployment relief aimed at maintaining the strength and experience of the federal government's civilian acquisition workforce. More specifically, the section would provide that an individual receiving a Civil Service Annuity who becomes reemployed in an acquisition-related position would not have his or her annuity discontinued.

The GSA Modernization Act will be considered by the Government Reform Committee at a business meeting tomorrow, May 5th, at 10 a.m. in Rayburn 2154. Other bills to be considered at that time are:

- **H.R. 627**, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 40 Putnam Avenue in Hamden, Connecticut, as the “Linda White-Epps Post Office.”
- **H.R. 1760**, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard in Madison, Wisconsin, as the “Robert M. La Follette, Sr. Post Office Building.”
- **H. Res. 231**, recognizing and celebrating the life and accomplishments of the great African American jockey Jimmy “Wink” Winkfield and the significant contributions and excellence of other African American jockeys and trainers in the sport of horse racing and the history of the Kentucky Derby.

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